

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION DLOS-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 IO-03 ISO-00 SS-14 SP-02 PM-03 L-01

COA-01 EB-03 OES-02 INR-05 NSC-05 NSCE-00 DODE-00

EA-06 NEA-06 ARA-06 AF-04 /073 W

----- 085737

R 272320Z FEB 75

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9280

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

S E C R E T USUN 605

FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL AND UNDER SECRETARY
MAW FROM JOHN NORTON MOORE

ESKIN D/LOS PLEASE PASS MORRIS AND FRENCH DOD

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJ: LOS MEETING WITH CANADIANS CONCERNING SPECIAL AREAS
AND STRAITS UNDERSTANDING

1. SUMMARY. LOS TEAM HEADED BY MOORE MET FEB 18 WITH CANADIAN
LOS TEAM HEADED BY AMB BEESLEY TO DISCUSS PROPOSED UNDERSTANDING
CONCERNING SPECIAL AREAS AND STRAITS. BEESLEY INDICATED
CANADIANS HAD NOT YET COMPLETED THEIR REVIEW OF US PROPOSAL
AND AS SUCH COULD NOT FORMALLY RESPOND AT THIS TIME. IT WAS
AGREED THAT CANADIANS WOULD MAKE NEW PROPOSAL ON CRITICAL REVIEW
PROCEDURES BY CABLE WITH REPLY BY U.S. TEAM. TEAMS WOULD THEN
ENDEAVOR TO MEET AGAIN PRIOR TO GENEVA HOPEFULLY TO FINALIZE
UNDERSTANDING. END SUMMARY.

2. LOS TEAM CONSISTING OF MOORE, OXMAN (STATE), LEITZELL (STATE)
DE ROCHER (DDD), YOUNG (TRANSPORTATION) AND COOK (CEQ) MET AT
THE CANADIAN MISSION TO THE UN WITH CANADIAN TEAM LEAD BY
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AMB BEESLEY AND INCLUDING LEGAULT, PHILLIPPS, CLARKS, EVANS,

AND MACGILLIVRAY TO DISCUSS UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING ENVIRONMENTALLY VULNERABLE AREAS AND SUPPORT FOR US STRAITS POSITION. BEESLEY INDICATED AT OUTSET OF MEETING THAT CANADIAN SIDE HAD NOT YET COMPLETED ITS REVIEW OF US PROPOSAL. AS SUCH HE WAS NOT IN POSITION TO GIVE FORMAL RESPONSE TO US PROPOSAL AT THIS TIME AS HE HAD HOPED.

3. BEESLEY INDICATED HE WISHED TO CLARIFY SEVERAL POINTS WHICH WOULD HELP IN OTTAWA CONSIDERATIONS. THESE WERE: COULD WE ACCEPT CANADIAN ARCHIPELAGO CLAIM OR NORTHWEST PASSAGE CLAIM AND IF NOT HOW DID WE PLAN TO AVOID PREJUDICE TO THESE POINTS? MOORE INDICATED WE SOUGHT TREATY WHICH WOULD NOT AFFECT EITHER U.S. OR CANADIAN POSITION RE THESE ISSUES AND THAT WAY TO ACHIEVE NEUTRAL RESOLUTION WAS TO UTILIZE LANGUAGE OF 1958 TERRITORIAL SEA CONVENTION ON DEFINITION OF STRAITS AND STRAIGHT BASELINE SYSTEMS.

4. BEESLEY ALSO RAISED QUESTION CONCERNING TECHNICAL REVIEW BY US OF CANADIAN REGULATIONS FOR ARTIC. MOORE INDICATED US REVIEW ALMOST COMPLETED AND US TECHNICAL TEAM PREPARED TO MEET WITH CANADIAN TEAM ON MARCH 5 TO DISCUSS REGULATIONS. DATE HAS BEEN CONFIRMED AND MEETING WILL BE IN OTTAWA. WE WILL FORWARD NAMES AND TRAVEL PLANS.

5. MOORE ALSO TOOK OCCASION OF MEETING TO INDICATE ON PURELY PERSONAL BASIS THAT IN ADDITION TO POINTS PROPOSED BY US IN OTTAWA PROPOSAL MOORE THOUGHT US MIGHT BE ABLE TO AGREE WITH CANADIANS THAT WATER OF STRAITS OF JUAN DE FUCA WERE INTERNAL WATERS AND STRAIT OF GEORGIA WAS THUS NOT A STRAIT USED FOR INTERNATIONAL NAVIGATION PROVIDED CANADIANS ACCEPTED US THREE POINTS INDICATED IN OTTAWA. MOORE ALSO INDICATED THIS US INTERPRETATION WOULD NEED TO BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL BETWEEN TWO GOVERNMENTS UNTIL SATISFACTORY LOS TREATY CONCLUDED.

6. IT WAS AGREED THAT CANADIANS WOULD MAKE NEW PROPOSAL TO US SIDE ON PROCESS FOR INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF VULNERABLE AREA REGULATIONS AND THAT TWO SIDES WOULD SEEK TO MEET AGAIN PRIOR TO GENEVA. IT WAS ALSO AGREED WE WOULD NEED TO WORK JOINTLY TO BRING SOVIETS ALONGS.

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7. COMMENT: SINCE CANADIANS HAD NOT YET COMPLETED THEIR REVIEW PROCESS, DISCUSSIONS MADE LITTLE HEADWAY. CANADIAN SIDE CONTINUES TO SEEM INTERESTED IN US PROPOSAL THOUGH OBVIOUSLY THERE ARE FEAR IN OTTAWA THAT CANADIANS NOT SACRIFICE POSSIBLE ARCHIPELAGO CLAIM OR PRESENT NORTHWEST PASSAGE POSITION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW OF THE SEA, NEGOTIATIONS, STRAITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975USUNN00605
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750070-0590
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975025/aaaaaedn.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION DLOS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <06 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOS MEETING WITH CANADIANS CONCERNING SPECIAL AREAS AND STRAITS UNDERSTANDING
TAGS: PLOS, US, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006